






Google Applications: a Case Study (Sludge Test 2.0)


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Agenda

- Welcome & Introductions
- Sludge Test: background
- Google Applications: a primer
- Sludge Test & Google Applications: perfect together!
- Getting started with Google Apps
- Q&A



Welcome & Introductions

<p>Cathleen (Kathy) Fields</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8th Grade IPS • 9th year teaching IPS • Metropolitan Business & Citizens Association (MBCA) Outstanding Teacher Recognition Award (2008) 	<p>Kevin Jarrett</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • K-4 Technology • 5th year teaching • <u>Google Certified Teacher</u> (2007) 
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Why We're Here...

Sludge Test: background

NJCCCS Science Standard 5.6.A.4
Chemistry

Structure and Properties of Matter

- Recognize that a mixture often can be separated into the original substances using one of more of their characteristic physical properties

Sludge Test: background

Two students work together to separate their "Sludge" and identify its five components, using properties such as:

- magnetism
- density
- boiling point
- freezing and melting points
- solubility
- flame tests

Time

Students are give 5 - 84 minute periods.



Sludge Test will include:

Lab Notebook
Introduction
Proper lab report for each lab completed
Observations and Sketches, Pics, etc
Data Tables
Graphs
3 Characteristics to identify each of the 5 substances
Conclusion

The Bottom Line

The Sludge Test demonstrates to me and the students how much they have learned.

Completing the test before the ASK8 gives students confidence in their science knowledge.

Working in groups

Prior to 2008

Word

Excel

Students working physically together when they were able to schedule time

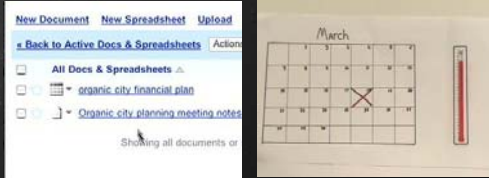
2008

Google Docs

Google Spreadsheets

Students working together, but physically apart, whenever and wherever it was convenient

Google Applications: a primer



Sludge Test & Google Applications: Perfect Together!

- Opportunities:
 - enhance teamwork (eliminate grousing/slacking)
 - provide 24/7 access (school & home)
 - simplify administration (for teacher)
 - learn, use new tools (students and teacher)
- Challenges:
 - district has never used Google Apps before
 - tool is actively in development (not perfect)
 - comfort with existing software (MS Office 2003)
 - digital divide

Sludge Test & Google Applications: Perfect Together!

- "Education Edition" was overkill and GMail was included (we didn't want)
- "Team Edition" chosen
 - domain-based :)
 - no GMail :)
 - no Google Groups :)
 - minimal user management capabilities :(



[Google Apps Editions Compared](#)

Sludge Test & Google Applications: Perfect Together!

- Team Edition rollout
 - Used NCS-Tech.org domain
 - Manually created 140+ accounts
 - Students trained on absolute BASICS (10 minutes) in computer lab
- Results
 - Enthusiastic adoption
 - 900+ 'sharing' email notifications generated within five hours of launch
 - Students learned the tools on their own
 - Students used Google Apps in other classes

Sludge Test & Google Applications: Perfect Together!

Net result (from Kathy's perspective)

- students happier and more satisfied with the shared work
- a more cohesive report
- far fewer complaints about unequal shared work

Sludge Test & Google Applications: Perfect Together!

Surveyed students via Google Form ([click here](#))

- If NCS were to adopt Google Apps so you could use it in all your classes, would it be:
 - A bad idea=6; Not such a good idea=7; A good idea=16; A great idea=22; TOTALLY AWESOME=33
- How easy was the program to learn and use?
 - Very hard=3; More hard than easy=10; So-so=10; Pretty easy=32; Very easy=29

Sludge Test & Google Applications: Perfect Together!

Surveyed students via Google Form ([click here](#))

- How much did Google Apps help you?
 - Not at all=16; A little=17; An average amount=19; A lot=15; TONS!=17
- What is the chance that, if given the opportunity, you would use Google Apps on your next partner project?
 - No chance=18; A little=18; Probably=10; Pretty Good=22; Definitely=21

Sludge Test & Google Applications: Perfect Together!

- Student Comments, Pro:
 - "I liked that i **could check when my partner was actually doing the work** that he was supposed to and said he was."
 - "I could do some of my **work in free time at school and some of my work at home**. I didn't have to carry my **sludge test around** since it was all saved on the computer."
 - "We were able to **work from home and school, without actually being together.**"

Sludge Test & Google Applications: Perfect Together!

- Student Comments, Con:
 - "**It didn't have all of the tools** that regular Microsoft office programs have."
 - "Every time you save something other people can read it and teachers can read it, even if you already deleted it. So **you can't really have any privacy.**"
 - "**No spelling checker.**"
 - "I would like to see the **picture size limit** to be raised."

Getting started with Google Apps

- Which Version?
 - Education Edition
 - best for larger schools / districts with substantial I.T. infrastructure
 - most flexibility & capability
 - user account management tools
 - Team Edition
 - best for individual classrooms (domain required)
 - automatically restricts features
 - email NOT required (accounts can be set up & used without student email of any kind)

Getting started with Google Apps

- Which Version?
 - Education Edition
 - http://www.google.com/educators/p_apps.html
 - Team Edition
 - <http://www.google.com/apps/edu/index.html>

Q&A

Thank You!

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Credit: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/atomicity/22489512/>
